



Ernest Trendall, Chiltern Avenue, High Wycombe, 'scored' for the Wanderers. As a player Ted Powell was useful. As a manager "I'm not so enthusiastic," he said.



The principle of the dismissal concerned Marion Bowers a fan of the Wanderers.



Sandra Taylor, a Wycombe fan, thought that Powell should have been given the chance to tell his side of the story.



Donald Martin with Alison — Little Marlow — "It wouldn't happen in industry," was his view of the affair.



Mrs Mary Redding from Prestwood — "It's diabolical."

TED POWELL 7 WANDERERS 1

ELEVEN DAYS ago Ted Powell was sacked by Wycombe Wanderers football club as manager, a decision which shocked local fans. Midweek spoke to a few people at random and the underlying opinion of all but one was: "it's unfair."

Mr Powell was appointed manager of the club in succession to the long-serving and enormously successful Brian Lee. While not enjoying enormous success this season under Powell, the club has nevertheless reached the third round of the F.A. Cup, and at this late stage in the season still has an outside chance of taking the Rothmans Isthmian League title.

Two weeks ago Mr Powell told the board he had applied for a job as national coach of Malawi, but he did not know at the time whether he would be offered the post.

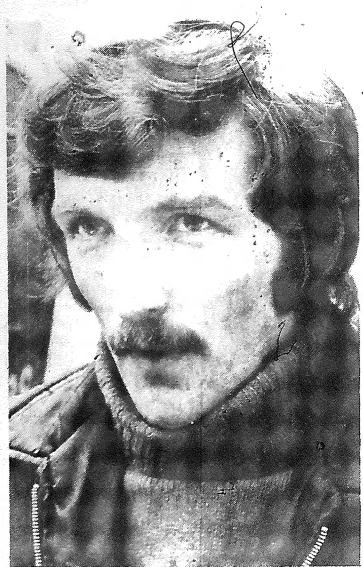
The board's decision — on the Thursday before the Bishop's Stortford game — to terminate his managership immediately, before he had had a decision about the Malawi post, came as a great shock to him and he was "bitterly disappointed." He said the reason given by the club for his dismissal was "a joke."

Seven of the eight people interviewed by Midweek were concerned with the principle at issue — is it fair to sack a man because he has applied for another job?

Of the people Midweek



Jayne Blake summed up "hasty, bad and unfair."



Michael Woolridge of High Wycombe, thought the sacking wrong and unjust.

Speakers' Corner view of that soccer sacking

stopped in The Octagon, High Wycombe, their score for Ted Powell was 7-1 — the views of people at Loakes Park may have been rather different...

Mrs Mary Redding of Prestwood, certainly did not think it was fair. "It is diabolical," she said. "He has done the job well in the time he has been with the Wanderers, and they should at least let him finish the season."

Donald Martin of Little Marlow, echoed these feelings, and caustically added that the trouble with the Wanderers set-up was that it had been too much of a clique for years.

Unfair

"It is unfair to sack a man who has done nothing wrong. You couldn't get away with it in industry," he said.

Another person to echo the industry theme was Michael Woolridge of High Wycombe, who pointed out that a future would be caused in those circles if a man was given his cards because he had applied for another job. "It is wrong, and unjust," he said.

A boyfriend-girlfriend partnership of Jayne Blake and Richard Heather of High Wycombe came out strongly in Mr Powell's favour.

should have been allowed to stay, at least until the end of the season.

Marion Bowers follows the Wanderers, although her

boyfriend doesn't let her go to the matches. She, too, was concerned with the principle of the dismissal, and did not think it just.

Her friend Sandra Taylor is another fan, and she agreed with Marion. "He should have been given more of a chance to give his side of the story," she said.

He got it

The only dissenting voice to be heard was that of Mr Ernest Trendall of Chiltern Avenue, High Wycombe. "As a player he was very useful, but as a manager, I'm not so enthusiastic," he said.

Mr Trendall hoped the Wanderers would find a capable successor to Mr Powell — someone who would find the club some forwards who could score more goals.

"I think Mr Powell will find another job easily enough," he said.

Mr Trendall was very prophetic. As readers of last Friday's Bucks Free Press may have seen, Ted Powell has clinched the footballing post in Malawi, and will accept the offer subject to the final parts of his contract.

Happily it is a case of all's well that ends well, although Mr Powell might not agree — for he stated after his sacking he had only applied for the Malawi job, and might not have gone there anyway.

Well these are the views given to Speakers' Corner. You may think differently. Why not write to Midweek.



Richard Heather thought the Powell sacking unfair as he had been basically honest with the club.

On the ball
with Paul
Gittings and
Geoff Gomme

Richard was another who considered his sacking "diabolical" and he thought it totally unfair that Ted had been dismissed after being basically honest with the club.

Jayne thought the decision was disgusting, calling it "hasty, bad and unfair." Both thought Mr Powell